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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 25, 27, 35, 39, 41, 42, 78, 95, 96, 99, 101, 107, 109, 117, 119 and 166

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Towards global partnerships

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sectoral policy questions

Operational activities for development

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

01-66023 (E) 301101 031201

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the statement of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, at the opening of the thirtieth ordinary session of the Al-Shourah Council of the State of Qatar, held in Doha on 19 November 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 25, 27, 35, 39, 41, 42, 78, 95, 96, 99, 101, 107, 109, 117, 119 and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Text of a statement by His Highness the Amir

In the name of God and with His blessing, I declare open this thirtieth regular session of the Shura (Advisory) Council.

We meet today, as we do every year, to begin a new session in the work of a Council whose role in enhancing objective dialogue for the advancement of the public interest and the strengthening of popular participation in the domain of legislative policy we have always appreciated.

Given that the Shura Council represents a key stage in the evolution of the State's institutions, I look forward with you and with the public at large to the stage that will follow the promulgation of a permanent Constitution. The commission entrusted with the drafting of the Constitution is making a praiseworthy effort to complete it on schedule and to incorporate in those provisions we all wish to see a tangible reality for a community capable of meeting the needs of its time and of coping with the achievements that human progress will bring in years to come. I am confident that the traditions the Shura Council has established in exercising its functions in past years and the great and variegated expertise it has acquired will lay a firm foundation for an elected representative council that will not emerge in a vacuum or grope its way among the provisions of the permanent Constitution but will instead find in these traditions and attainments assistance and support that will guard it from pitfalls and light the way for it to achieve, God willing, everything we hope for.

At the beginning of this year, world economic growth began to slow down, and it has shown signs of contracting. The events of 11 September have had their own adverse repercussions for various economic activities, to increase the risks of a continued slowdown in economic growth in the industrialized countries.

This in turn has had a negative impact on most countries of the world, and the prices of various commodities, especially oil, have fallen as a consequence. The slowdown in world economic growth has greatly reduced demand for oil since the beginning of the year, and it is anticipated that oil prices will not stabilize in the immediate future. While the high oil prices of the past had positive consequences for us, the additional revenues realized as a result of those high prices were used to pay off some of the debts resulting from recurring annual budget deficits in past years and to fund major industrial projects. However, like countries in other regions of the world, Qatar has not been spared the adverse consequences of the crisis, and the contraction in world demand for oil and the steep drop in oil prices mean that a decline in State revenues and a slowdown in rates of economic growth are to be expected.

Our country has made great strides in the implementation of programmes to strengthen the national economy, and it has achieved sustained growth in the hydrocarbon industries sector. We have not, however, achieved our goals with regard to intermediate and light industries. The latter industries depend primarily on private-sector activity, since they do not require large amounts of capital. In order to stimulate the role of the private sector in this field, the State has acquired full ownership of the Industrial Development Bank so as to create an appropriate mechanism to implement the relevant projects in cooperation with the private sector. It will also endeavour to eliminate the administrative and bureaucratic obstacles that impede the private sector in this regard.

We affirm our determination and resolve to maintain our established policies for the implementation of more industrial projects and the development of infrastructure in accordance with the programmes and plans approved, to sponsor the enactment of the necessary laws to encourage foreign direct investment, to provide numerous lucrative incentives to investors, and to enhance the investment climate so as to increase the contribution of foreign investment to economic projects. The establishment of the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment perhaps reflects our concern to support and stimulate the economic development process in order to diversify the production base and meet the need to

cope with emerging global developments and profit from the opportunities that present themselves.

In our concern for the development process to include all State sectors, the Government is making a major effort to upgrade our educational system and to improve scientific and technical qualifications with the assistance of international consultants of proven effectiveness.

I must take this occasion to express our satisfaction at the worthy results achieved by the fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization that was held a few days ago in Doha and to address our sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the Conference, and especially those who volunteered, for the efforts they made in this regard.

Affirming our deep affinity with the Gulf, Arab and Islamic communities, we in the State of Qatar stress that our foremost foreign policy priorities are to strengthen our relations with our fellow States in the Gulf Cooperation Council and to augment our ties of brotherhood and integration with them. We look forward to the forthcoming summit meeting of the Council to be held in the Sultanate of Oman, and we hope that it will be successful and productive and will have positive results for our countries and peoples. We are certain that the insight of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, the sponsor of the summit, will contribute to its success as well as to the enhancement of solidarity and cohesion and the promotion of the common interests and goals of the people of the region.

We have all noted the barbarous acts of terrorism that were committed against the United States on 11 September last and in which thousands of innocent civilians were killed. We have condemned these acts in the strongest terms and have stressed that the perpetrators must be pursued and brought to justice. The whole world having now grasped the danger posed by such criminality to the future of the human race and to its advancement, well-being and stability, it is unanimous in perceiving the need to confront this phenomenon and rid the world of its evils.

The Muslim countries have been in the forefront in this respect, and not only in unanimously condemning these heinous acts of terrorism at the emergency meeting of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers that was held in Doha in October 2001. Indeed, several years before that they adopted a draft convention for the suppression of terrorism and urged Islamic States to accede to it. The Arab and Muslim countries, however, find themselves in the position of having to defend themselves against dubious attempts to stigmatize Arabs and Muslims with the charge of terrorism. But terrorism is not the monopoly of a particular religion, of a specific region or of one race rather than another, just as it is incompatible with all prescriptions of religious law and most conspicuously those of true Islam, urging as it does benevolence, tolerance and love, not violence, enmity and hate. We hope that the Arab and Muslim countries will take vigorous steps to refute this unjust charge. It is incumbent on us to do this with the utmost vigour and, in doing so, to adopt an approach of objective dialogue based on matching argument for argument and on projecting the true image of Islam and its role in human civilization.

The Arab and Muslim countries have adopted a position of principle, which is that it is essential to differentiate between terrorism as a criminal phenomenon and the right of peoples languishing under the yoke of military occupation to free their homelands and exercise their inherent right to self-determination as guaranteed by a whole series of international covenants beginning with the Charter of the United Nations. In my statement to the United Nations General Assembly, I urged the need to define terrorism with precision on the aforesaid basis. It is perhaps to be hoped that the definition adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference in this context might serve as a starting point for the international efforts to be made by the United Nations in this regard and that the ongoing engagement with this phenomenon will take place under United Nations leadership in the framework of an international convention binding on States parties.

We call upon the international community to eliminate the sources of tension in the world and to solve the chronic problems that pose a threat to international peace and security and provide fertile soil for extremism and violence. We are confident that a just and lasting settlement of the Palestine issue that satisfies the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people to establish on its national soil an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital, an end to Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon to the internationally recognized boundaries would restore security, stability

and calm to the Middle East and allow all of its peoples without exception to enjoy the peace they have been seeking for many long years.

The harsh conditions and intense suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people arouse in us a sense of pain and bitterness. They require us to seek for ways to extricate ourselves from this critical situation and to devise appropriate political solutions that will ensure the preservation of Iraq's unity, sovereignty and independence and achieve security and stability in the region. It is also to be hoped that concerted efforts will be made by all to resolve the issue of the missing persons.

We turn the page on a year that is coming to a close, a year crowded with contrasting events that brought the world many surprises and resonated with many tragedies that do not accord with the spirit of benevolence and the propagation of peace. We must nevertheless go on. We must go on to build for more prosperous days and a brighter future, arming ourselves with knowledge, faith and the right of humanity to live in freedom and tranquillity. This will demand from us a great deal of effort and devotion. So let us look to the future of our country with optimistic eyes and with a spirit amply provided with resolve, for with will and determination we shall build the future of our country and of generations to come.

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 41 and 42

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made on 24 November 2001 by an official at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar, expressing Qatar's condemnation and denunciation of Israel's inhuman practices against the Palestinian people and the deliberate policy of assassination of their leaders (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-65939 (E) 271101

Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Qatar condemns and denounces Israel's brutal outrages against the Palestinian people

The State of Qatar has condemned and denounced the outrages and inhuman acts committed by Israel against Palestinian citizens, and it has protested against the policy of assassinating representative leaders of the Palestinian people.

It did so in a statement made by an official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Qatar News Agency to the effect that the outrages and actions in question are in violation of the principles of international law and the resolutions embodying international legitimacy, may threaten security and stability in the region and do not accord with the notions and principles enunciated by the United States Secretary of State with a view to creating the appropriate conditions for a resumption of the peace process in the Middle East and bringing it back on track.

In concluding his statement, the official spokesman affirmed that the State of Qatar will stand by the Palestinian people in its just struggle for the restoration of its legitimate rights, notably its right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State on its own national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

United Nations A/56/651

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 120

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session, and to allocate to the Fifth Committee, the item entitled:

> "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:
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> "(a) United Nations peacekeeping operations;
>
> "(b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 15th, 16th and 28th meetings, on 22 and 23 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.15, 16 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Audited financial statements and report of the Board of Auditors on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the period ended 31 December 2000;[1]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5E* (A/56/5/Add.5).

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(b) Second report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 (A/56/66);

(c) Second report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations funds and programmes for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 (A/56/66/Add.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of its recommendations (A/56/132);

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/436).

4. At the 15th meeting, on 22 October, the Director of External Audit and Chairman of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors introduced the report of the Board (see A/C.5/56/SR.15).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.6

5. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Egypt and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" (A/C.5/56/L.6).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.6 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Having considered, for the year ended 31 December 2000, the audited financial statements and the report of the Board of Auditors on voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2] the report of the Board on implementation of its recommendations,[3] the second report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board on the accounts of the United Nations and on the United Nations funds and programmes

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5E* (A/56/5/Add.5).

[3] A/56/132, annex, appendix.

for the biennium ended 31 December 1999,[4] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5]

1. *Accepts* the financial report and audited financial statements and the report and audit opinion of the Board of Auditors regarding the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2000;[2]

2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report[6] and the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[5]

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors[4] and the report of the Board on the implementation of its recommendations;[3]

4. *Requests* the audited organizations to take all necessary steps to expeditiously implement the outstanding audit recommendations;

5. *Notes with concern* the qualified audit opinion on the financial statements of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and requests the audited organizations to cooperate fully with the Board of Auditors and to present the requested information and documentation in a comprehensive and timely manner so that this does not lead in future to similar qualified opinions.

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[4] A/56/66 and Add.1.

[5] A/56/436.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5E* (A/56/5/Add.5), chap. I.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 121 and 128

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the items entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate them to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the items at its 4th, 5th and 28th meetings, on 8 and 9 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.4, 5 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters" (A/56/274) and his comments on that report (A/56/274/Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system (A/54/702);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection

01-66239 (E) 301101

Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system (A/55/979).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.3

4. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Botswana and coordinator of the informal consultations on items 121 and 128 introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters" (A/C.5/56/L.3).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.3 without a vote (see para. 8, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.4

6. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Botswana and coordinator of the informal consultations on items 121 and 128 introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system" (A/C.5/56/L.4).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.4 without a vote (see para. 8, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters"[1] and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the comprehensive and timely preparation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;[1]

[1] A/56/274.
[2] A/56/274/Add.1.

2. *Endorses* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and requests the Secretary-General to take full account of its recommendations and findings when elaborating the capital master plan, without prejudice to the future consideration by the General Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the capital master plan;

3. *Decides* to revert to the consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon within the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the capital master plan, requested by the Assembly in section IV of its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000.

Draft resolution II
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/232 of 23 December 2000 and 55/247 of 12 April 2001,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system[3] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments as well as those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon,[4]

1. *Endorses* the elements contained in paragraphs (b) and (d) of recommendation 1, and recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Joint Inspection Unit;[3]

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General and participating organizations of the United Nations system, when addressing the issues raised in paragraphs (a) and (c) of recommendation 1, and recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the Joint Inspection Unit, to take fully into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 55/232 and 55/247 when using the services of private management consulting firms.

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[3] A/54/702.
[4] A/55/979.

United Nations A/56/653

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 122

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th, 8th, 21st and 28th meetings, on 11, 15 and 22 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.7, 8, 21 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Experience for visitors

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal for enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors (A/55/835);

(b) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, chap. I, sect. E.8, paras. 103-113);

Development Account

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/55/913);

(d) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, part XIII);

01-66246 (E) 041201

Commercial activities

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations (A/55/546);

(f) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, paras. IS3.5-13);

Information technology

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action (A/55/780);

(h) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, paras. 80-94).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8

4. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Australia and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors" (A/C.5/56/L.8).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9

6. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of India and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/56/L.9).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10

8. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Ukraine, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations" (A/C.5/56/L.10).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11

10. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Canada, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this

question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Information technology" (A/C.5/56/L.11).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution IV).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing his proposal for enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors,[1]

Having also considered the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, the prospective donor, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] to mobilize resources in order to provide new facilities for the visitors' experience in the form of a donation in kind to the United Nations;

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;[2]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the development of the proposed visitors' experience project is fully integrated with the capital master plan, including necessary security measures;

4. *Decides* that a decision on this question should be taken in the light of any further decision on the capital master plan;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Association of the United States of America to proceed with the preparation of a schematic design for the new visitors' experience, taking into account the four conditions set out in the report of the Secretary-General,[3] which are highlighted in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4] on the understanding that it will be for the General Assembly to declare itself satisfied with the fulfilment of these conditions;

6. *Notes* the desirability of expanding the number of potential contributors to the project by including the United Nations Associations of other countries;

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[1] A/55/835.
[2] A/56/7, chap. I, sect. E.8, paras. 103-113.
[3] A/55/835, para. 20.
[4] A/56/7, chap. I, sect. E.8, para. 107.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to evaluate the proposed financial and fiscal aspects of the donation, in view of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and in the light of the capital master plan, taking into account the eventual financial implications for the Organization, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit, when practicable, for the consideration of the General Assembly, a comprehensive report on the outcome of the schematic design; options for deciding on the final scale of the project; projected revenues and the cost of operating and maintaining the new visitors' experience; proposals for expanded commercial activities; options for operating methodologies; means of adjusting to changing situations; procedures for the operation of the proposed capital improvement fund; and a time-line for implementation.

Draft resolution II
Development Account

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997,

Reaffirming its resolutions 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999, 53/220 B of 8 June 1999 and 54/15 of 29 October 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account,[5] including the observations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in chapter V thereof, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Expresses concern* at the low implementation rate of the projects undertaken through the Development Account;

2. *Urges* a more expeditious and effective rate of implementation of projects, and requests that project proposals include all costs, including support costs, and whether or not they are financed from the Development Account;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his next report the date of commencement, the implementing agency and the anticipated dates of completion of all ongoing projects and to provide explanations for any schedule changes in the completion of these projects;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to enhance efficiency measures that may result in sustainable savings, with a view to augmenting the Development Account, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/15;

5. *Reaffirms* that projects financed from the Development Account should be implemented in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 53/220 A and 53/220 B;

[5] A/55/913.

[6] A/56/7, part XIII.

6. *Welcomes* the fact that the implementation of the approved projects financed from the Development Account has a developmental impact on a country, is cost-effective, in particular through its use of information and communication technology, and is jointly designed and implemented by several entities of the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation rate of the projects, with a view to identifying those projects that are underperforming and the causes, and to submit proposals to correct this situation or to redeploy funds from such projects to those that are delivering results;

8. *Decides* to continue to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Draft resolution III
Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/232 of 23 December 2000,

Recalling also the international and non-commercial character of the Organization,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General[7] and endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon;[8]

2. *Also notes* the proposal to separate the management of the commercial activities from the other activities of the Organization, and requests the Secretary-General to submit detailed information on this proposal and its administrative and financial implications;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate on this proposal by means of a blueprint concerning the specific commercial goals of the Organization and the steps that should be taken to achieve them, in particular the use of outsourcing, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 55/232 of 23 December 2000 and 55/247 of 12 April 2001, and the optimum use of space within the United Nations buildings;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make proposals to streamline and simplify the administration and management structure underpinning those activities;

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[7] A/55/546.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. IS3.5-13.

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a single report containing the information requested in the present resolution.

Draft resolution IV
Information technology

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, by which it requested the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive strategy for the development and implementation of information technology,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action,[9] and endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon;[10]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resubmit the plan of action, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1 above and:

(a) Developing a specific plan to improve efficiency through the application of information technology in the Secretariat and the action required to implement it;

(b) Defining clearly the responsibilities of the different bodies in the application and integration of information technology within the United Nations;

(c) Addressing the objective of improving decision-making with respect to information technology in the Secretariat by improving coordination and reducing duplication;

(d) Developing a cost-benefit analysis for use in identifying information technology priorities;

(e) Developing an implementation plan for those priorities;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a single report containing the information requested in the present resolution.

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[9] A/55/780.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7) paras. 80-94.

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General Assembly

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Human resources management

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Human resources management" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 20th, 21st and 28th meetings, on 30 and 31 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.20, 21 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Consultants

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the use of consultants in the United Nations (A/55/59) and his comments thereon (A/55/59/Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on consultants and individual contractors hired by the United Nations during 1999 (A/55/321);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the employment of retirees (A/55/451);

(d) Relevant section of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-first session;[1]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16), paras. 451-455.

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(e) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

Delegation of authority

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the delegation of authority for management of human and financial resources in the United Nations Secretariat (A/55/857) and his comments thereon (A/55/857/Add.1);

(g) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

Young professionals

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention" (A/55/798);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments, as well as those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, on the above-mentioned report (A/55/798/Add.1);

(j) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[4]

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.12

4. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Pakistan and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft decision entitled "Use of consultants in the United Nations" (A/C.5/56/L.12).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/56/L.12 without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision I).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.13

6. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Pakistan and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft decision entitled "Delegation of authority" (A/C.5/56/L.13).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/56/L.13 without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision II).

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[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. 118-122.

[3] Ibid., para. 123.

[4] Ibid., paras. 116-117.

C. Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.14

8. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Pakistan and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft decision entitled "Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention" (A/C.5/56/L.14).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/56/L.14 without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision III).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Use of consultants in the United Nations

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the use of consultants in the United Nations[5] and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon,[6] and having recalled its resolutions 55/232 of 23 December 2000, 55/247 of 12 April 2001 and 55/258 of 14 June 2001:

(a) Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[7] and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in the relevant section of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;[8]

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Draft decision II
Delegation of authority

The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on the delegation of authority for management of human and financial resources in the United Nations Secretariat,[9] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 55/481 of 14 June 2001, also to take fully into account the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.[10]

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[5] A/55/59.

[6] A/55/59/Add.1.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16), paras. 451-455.

[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. 118-122.

[9] See A/55/857.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), para. 123.

Draft decision III
Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention",[11] the related observations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon[12] and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[13] requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the question of young professionals in the context of his report on human resources management to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, taking into account the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its aforementioned report.

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[11] A/55/798.

[12] A/55/798/Add.1.

[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. 116-117.

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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th, 5th and 28th meetings, on 8 and 9 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.4, 5 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2000;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/56/135);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2001 and the preliminary listing of potential reports for 2002 and beyond (A/56/84);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on experience with the follow-up system on Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations (A/56/356).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/56/34 and Corr.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5

4. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Croatia and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/56/L.5).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, hereafter referred to as the Unit, in particular resolutions 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999 and 55/230 of 23 December 2000,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Unit for 2000;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Unit for 2001 and the preliminary listing of potential reports for 2002 and beyond,[3] as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Unit on experience with the follow-up system on Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations;[4]

3. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;[5]

4. *Takes note in particular* that, as noted in the preliminary listing of potential reports for 2002 and beyond and reaffirmed by the Chairman of the Unit, the preliminary listing is of a tentative nature and does not necessarily imply that the Unit is committed to taking up these subjects;

5. *Invites* the Unit to improve the presentation of the listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond by providing information on the source, including legislative basis, objectives, problems to be addressed, duration and expected date of completion, and to present such information before the final quarter of each year;

6. *Requests* the executive heads of participating organizations to fully observe the time frame for submitting their comments, as called for in article 11, subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e), of the statute of the Unit;

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[2] Ibid.
[3] A/56/84.
[4] A/56/356.
[5] A/56/135.

7. *Requests* the Unit to consider including in its reports, where possible, the comments of the participating organizations on its findings and recommendations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to place emphasis in its work on well-defined and timely items of high priority, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations;

9. *Stresses also* that the compliance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/16 and contained in annex I to the Unit's annual report for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997,[6] is a responsibility of the Unit as a whole, and, in this regard, requests the Unit to fully exercise its collective wisdom in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the statute;

10. *Requests* the Chairman of the Unit, in accordance with article 18 of the statute, to ensure compliance by the Unit with the provisions of its statute as well as the internal standards, guidelines and procedures as approved by the Unit;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the other participating organizations to ensure that the Unit is provided with the information requested by it in due time, in accordance with article 6.2 of the statute;

12. *Welcomes* the initial steps taken by the Unit with other external and internal oversight bodies of the United Nations system to develop interaction and intensify relations with a view to achieving better coordination among them with respect, in particular, to the oversight coverage and sharing of best practices, thus enhancing the impact of oversight activities as a whole and endeavouring to avoid duplication, and requests the Unit to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session in the context of its report for 2001;

13. *Requests* the executive heads of those participating organizations that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to facilitate the consideration of and action on the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit,[6] and invites the legislative organs concerned to consider and act upon it;

14. *Requests* the Unit to submit, as part of its annual report, additional comments and recommendations on its experience with the follow-up system on reports of the Unit, focusing in particular on legislative actions and implementation of the approved recommendations, to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, including measures it has taken to achieve a punctual and systematic follow-up of its recommendations as approved by the legislative organs of participating organizations;

15. *Decides* to review the current state of coordination and cooperation among the United Nations oversight bodies with a view to ensuring greater synergy and mutual complementarity in their joint efforts to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/52/34), annex I.

16. *Requests* that the Unit place more emphasis on the evaluation aspects of its work, in accordance with recommendation 63 contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,[7] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

17. *Underlines* that the evaluation function is envisaged in the statute of the Unit, and stresses the need for the Unit to pay special attention to the preparation of more evaluation-oriented reports;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the executive heads of the other participating organizations for their attention.

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[7] Ibid., *Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

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Agenda item 32
Multilingualism

Multilingualism

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is being submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/64 of 6 December 1999, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of resolutions 50/11 of 2 November 1995 and 54/64.

Framework of multilingualism

2. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both official and working languages of the General Assembly, its committees, subcommittees and subsidiary organs,[1] and of the Security Council;[2] Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the official languages and English, French and Spanish the working languages of the Economic and Social Council[3] and its functional commissions; Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the official languages and English and French the working languages of the Trusteeship Council;[4] English and French are the official languages of the International Court of Justice;[5] and English and French are the working languages of the Secretariat.[6]

3. The working languages of the regional commissions of the United Nations are as follows: Arabic, English and French for the Economic Commission for Africa; English, French and Russian for the Economic Commission for Europe; English, French and Spanish for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;[7] Chinese, English, French and Russian for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and Arabic, English and French for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Appointment of a coordinator of questions relating to multilingualism

4. In its resolution 54/64 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a senior Secretariat official as coordinator of questions relating to multilingualism throughout the Secretariat. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General appointed on 6 September 2000 Federico Riesco, Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, as Coordinator for Multilingualism. Upon the latter's retirement, the Secretary-General appointed to that function Miles Stoby, Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, with effect from 6 September 2001.

5. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 54/64, it is understood that this official will seek to coordinate action and propose strategies to address the weaknesses in the pattern of language use in the Organization identified in resolution 50/11, and serve as the focal point for questions and proposals

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pertaining to multilingualism throughout the Secretariat.

6. Appreciating that, to be effective, efforts to promote multilingualism must be Secretariat-wide, the Coordinator has sought to involve all departments and/or offices of the Secretariat. To this end, he invited the heads of all departments and offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi to appoint departmental focal points for questions relating to multilingualism. The focal points and the Coordinator have conferred regularly on ways and means to reinforce multilingualism, and on issues requiring action at the Secretariat level. The Coordinator has also participated in a number of meetings with Member States on this matter, including meetings of the Committee on Conferences, informal consultations of the Fifth Committee, and meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions where these issues were addressed.

7. As a result of interdepartmental consultations and consultations in the context of the above-mentioned bodies, three sets of issues were identified in relation to multilingualism, namely, (a) issues relating to the working languages of the Secretariat; (b) issues relating to the use of official languages in documents and meetings; and (c) issues relating to public information. These issues are addressed below.

II. Issues relating to the working languages of the Secretariat

8. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/11, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that appointment of the staff of the Organization was carried out strictly in accordance with the terms of Article 101 of the Charter and the regulations established by the General Assembly pursuant to that Article and that, upon recruitment, personnel recruited by the different bodies of the Organization had a command of and used at least one of the working languages of the Secretariat or one of the working languages of another body of the Organization, in the case of staff members who were to work for that body and whose tenure of appointment did not exceed two years, and requested him to ensure that the use of another of the six official languages was duly encouraged and taken into account, particularly when promotions and incremental steps were under consideration, in order to ensure linguistic balance within the Organization.

9. While there is at this time no legislative requirement for the staff, or prospective staff, of the Secretariat to have proficiency in both working languages of the Secretariat, or in all the working languages of the regional commissions, as applicable, the Secretary-General has actively sought to promote, to the extent feasible and within available resources, a more balanced use of all the working languages.

10. Consultations have highlighted the influence of the language of the host city whenever it is a working language. Thus the English language largely prevails within the Secretariat at Headquarters in New York and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, whereas other languages, such as French, Spanish and Arabic, are widely used, and may even prevail, in the day-to-day work of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at Santiago, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at Beirut, respectively. English is also the language favoured for working purposes at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

Vacancy announcements and recruitments

11. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 50/11 and to further the use of all working languages and increase the percentage of French-speaking staff, the Office of Human Resources Management has, as an integral part of the human resources reform programme put in place by the Secretary-General, initiated a project to overhaul the recruitment system of the Secretariat.

12. The project, known as the Galaxy Project, provides for a Secretariat-wide system that would partially automate the generation of vacancy announcements by extracting key requirements, including language proficiency requirements, from an electronic library of generic job profiles. The system would also automate the preliminary screening of applications by introducing standardized electronic application forms with a finite number of pre-defined options for providing each item of information required. By linking completed electronic application forms with the standardized vacancy announcements, it

will be possible to determine automatically whether information provided by applicants matches key requirements specified in the vacancy announcement. Using web-based technology, the system will allow simultaneous posting of vacancy announcements at all duty stations and, for external vacancy announcements, on the United Nations web site.

13. It is expected that the implementation of the Galaxy Project will yield, inter alia, a higher number of French-speaking staff members, and allow greater weight to be given to language skills in recruitment and promotion criteria.

Action

14. The Secretariat will seek to ensure that the Galaxy Project, currently in a developmental phase, becomes operational in the second quarter of 2002.

Language incentives

15. Staff members are strongly encouraged to become proficient in two or more of the official languages of the United Nations in order to further multilingualism within the Secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/11.

16. In an effort to promote multilingualism throughout the Secretariat, staff members appointed under the 100 series of the Staff Rules to posts in the General Service, Security Service, Trades and Crafts, or Field Service categories, up to and including level 5, are paid a language allowance in accordance with staff rule 103.6 after they have established proficiency in at least two official languages.

17. In addition, staff members appointed under the 100 series of the Staff Rules to posts in the Professional category and higher and who are subject to the system of desirable ranges by nationality are eligible for accelerated increments after they have established proficiency in a second working or official language. Subject to satisfactory service, staff members who have fulfilled the linguistic requirements for accelerated increments are granted the salary increments after 10 months, whereas the normal qualifying period for an in-grade increment is 12 months of continuous service,[8] and after 20 months for grades and levels for which the normal qualifying period for the increment is 24 months.[9]

Action

18. Administrative arrangements in place for the provision of language allowances and accelerated salary increments will continue to be enforced.

Language training

19. With reference to paragraph 7 of resolution 50/11, it is worth recalling that the administrative instruction on language proficiency and language incentives (ST/AI/1999/2) of 13 May 1999 strongly encourages staff members to become proficient in two or more of the official languages of the United Nations in order to further the aims of multilingualism in the Organization.

20. Language programmes at major duty stations provide beginner, intermediate and advanced courses in the six official languages. To supplement the regular language courses, special courses are offered. These courses, in such specific areas as "Stratégies d'écoute: comprendre pour mieux communiquer", "English through media", "Spanish at the cinema", "Media-assisted Russian", "Cultural diversity of the Arabic-speaking world" and "Reading Chinese newspapers", give staff the means to broaden and strengthen their knowledge of current events and culture so that they can put their acquired skills to use in their work for the Organization. In addition, in order to develop the ability of staff members to communicate orally and in writing, courses are offered in giving oral presentations, improving pronunciation, drafting letters and memoranda and writing reports.

21. Self-study centres at major duty stations support the learning of languages by providing staff members with a variety of means, such as print, audio, video, computers and multimedia, to study at their own pace and according to their own schedules. Moreover, resources available on the Internet are incorporated into the language classes and hyperlinks to language-learning sites continue to be developed for the Intranet.

22. The core language-training programme at Headquarters provides beginner, intermediate and advanced courses in the six official languages during three 13-week terms each year. Special courses with a focus on development of a particular skill, such as conversation, reading, writing or aural comprehension, are also scheduled to meet the linguistic needs of participants, who include staff of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United

Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as staff of the permanent missions.

23. In 1999, staff of 119 permanent missions availed themselves of the language-training programme; in 2000, the number was 109. In 2000, a total of 3,225 individuals enrolled in language courses, as follows: 279 in Arabic, 170 in Chinese, 585 in English, 1,185 in French, 218 in Russian and 788 in Spanish.

24. Language training is provided by the United Nations Office at Vienna in all the official languages as well as German. In 2000, 314 individuals enrolled in language courses, as follows: 52 in Arabic, 33 in Chinese, 44 in English, 75 in French, 38 in Russian and 72 in Spanish. The total number of individuals having availed themselves of the language training programmes at the United Nations Office at Vienna in 2001 was 39 , as follows: 56 in Arabic, 10 in Chinese, 64 in English, 73 in French, 26 in Russian and 162 in Spanish.

25. Supplementing the regular language courses, special courses were offered in effective English writing, French conversation, Chinese conversation and English writing skills for the staff at large.

26. In addition, specialized language courses in terminology were offered to language staff for the following subjects: drug control (Austria); Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Austria); comparative law (France and Austria); international trade law (Austria); and criminal justice (Austria). Spanish immersion courses were also offered in Spain in 2001.

27. The Secretariat remains committed to ensuring that adequate human and financial resources are made available to provide the appropriate language courses as reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. In the report of the Secretary-General on human resources management reform (A/55/253 and Corr.1), language and communications programmes to promote multilingualism are cited as targeted programmes to address priority needs of the Organization.

Actions

28. The Secretariat will continue to actively encourage staff members to acquire new languages or enhance their proficiency in the official languages of the Organization.

29. Secretariat officials appearing before intergovernmental or expert bodies will be encouraged, when they address meetings with interpretation services, to use official languages other than English whenever possible.

III. Issues relating to the use of official languages in documents and meetings

Documents

30. By its resolution 36/117 B of 10 December 1981, the General Assembly established the rule regarding the simultaneous distribution of documents in all the official languages. This rule, which mandates that no language version of a particular document, including its original language version, may be released for distribution until all the other required language versions are available, was reiterated in resolutions 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, 50/11 of 2 November 1995 and 53/208 B of 18 December 1998.

31. The Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, which is responsible for the issuance of all documents, has consistently sought to adhere to the above-mentioned rule to the extent that the issuance of the document fell under its purview.[10] Standard arrangements governing the simultaneous distribution of documents have at times not been strictly adhered to, however.

32. Consultations with the focal points on multilingualism have revealed that various author departments of the Secretariat and/or United Nations bodies provide, as a courtesy, advance copies of reports and other documents, at times in draft form, in hard copy or on the web site of the department or office. This courtesy is extended in response to informal requests by organs or committees of the United Nations or by individual delegations, and often in connection with the run-up to major intergovernmental meetings and conferences. These advance copies are almost invariably in English.

33. In some instances, the Secretariat provides advance courtesy copies of reports of the Secretary-General to the president of the organ or body concerned. Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council are often made available to the President of the Council in the original language version, almost invariably in English, immediately

upon their approval by the Secretary-General; the President of the Security Council in turn makes them available to members of the Council, with a view to facilitating consultations with capitals prior to the consideration of the report, particularly when the matter is urgent.

Action

34. It is up to Member States to take a position on the pattern of ad hoc availability of courtesy draft or advance copies of documents.

Meetings

35. In paragraph 9 of resolution 50/11, the General Assembly urged the delegations of Member States and the Secretariat to endeavour to avoid holding informal meetings without interpretation.

36. Official calendar meetings[11] are conducted with simultaneous interpretation in the languages requested and informal calendar meetings are provided with conference services on an "as-available" basis. Complaints by a number of Member States regarding the high number of so-called "low-cost" informal meetings held without interpretation are to be considered in the context of the number of calendar meetings requested by Member States with and without interpretation at Headquarters, shown in table 1. Tables 2 and 3 illustrate the trend towards meetings without interpretation of United Nations bodies based at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna, respectively.

37. While the reasons for the increase in the number of intergovernmental meetings held without interpretation are manifold, it can be argued that this trend thwarts the overall aim of a multilingual Organization. It is to be stressed that the increase in the number of meetings held without interpretation is only partially motivated by cost considerations. It has been argued that such informal meetings without interpretation increase the efficiency of the intergovernmental deliberative process. Meetings without interpretation are customarily conducted in English at Headquarters, at the United Nations Office at Vienna and at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and in English or French at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

38. Draft resolutions are customarily proposed by Member States or groups of Member States, which try to build support either in informal consultations, sometimes held with interpretation, or in so-called "informal-informal" meetings, coordinated by a "lead" delegation or, sometimes, by a coordinator designated by the Bureau of the organ or body concerned. Draft resolutions are commonly first circulated as non-papers in the drafting language. When sufficient support has been gathered, the text, or an amended form thereof, is submitted for issuance in all the official languages as a limited-distribution document ("L" document). In general, the draft resolution is then formally introduced in the organ or body concerned. Informal negotiations may continue after the formal introduction of a draft resolution and, if the sponsor(s) so request, a subsequent version may be issued in the form of a revision to the initial "L" document.

39. Whenever amendments to a proposal, or competing texts, on a specific question are circulated, informal meetings or so-called "informal-informal" meetings are held in an attempt to reach a compromise. When no compromise is reached, the amendments or competing texts are also circulated formally under an "L" symbol in all the official languages.

40. The vast majority of informal texts (preliminary texts of draft resolutions) are in English and negotiations are customarily held on the basis of the English text.

41. There are no provisions requiring the Secretariat to provide translations in all the official languages of preliminary texts of draft resolutions. As initial proposals may generate numerous subsequent revised versions, systematic translations of unofficial drafts, while furthering the goal of multilingualism, might delay the negotiating process. Considering the intergovernmental nature of the negotiation process, the Secretariat will continue to provide the services Member States deem necessary to conduct their negotiations.

42. The discernible trend that has emerged with respect to informal meetings held without interpretation, in particular at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, and with respect to the negotiating process seem to suggest that the current working methods of intergovernmental organs and bodies of the Organization do not further the overall aim of multilingualism.

Action

43. The General Assembly may wish to address the question of the trend towards the holding of informal calendar meetings without interpretation.

Table 1
Calendar meetings held with and without interpretation at Headquarters
(Number of meetings)

	1994-1995	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003*
		Actual		*Estimated*	
With interpretation	6 470	6 081	5 763	6 300	6 300
Without interpretation	1 539	1 583	1 660	1 800	1 800
Total	**8 009**	**7 664**	**7 423**	**8 100**	**8 100**
Percentage of calendar meetings held without interpretation	**19.21**	**20.65**	**22.36**	**22.22**	**22.22**

Table 2
Calendar meetings held with and without interpretation at the United Nations Office at Geneva[a]
(Number of meetings)

	1994-1995	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003*
		Actual		*Estimated*	
With interpretation	5 482	4 954	4 586	4 850	4 850
Without interpretation	5 565	6 928	6 931	6 000	6 000
Total	**11 047**	**11 882**	**11 517**	**10 850**	**10 850**
Percentage of calendar meetings held without interpretation	**50.37**	**58.30**	**60.18**	**55.59**	**55.29**

[a] Including extrabudgetary meetings.

Table 3
United Nations meetings held with and without interpretation at the United Nations Office at Vienna
(Number of meetings)

	1994-1995	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003*
		Actual		*Estimated*	
With interpretation	805	686	837	860	900
Without interpretation	1 130	1 893	2 147	2 452	2 952
Total	**1 935**	**2 579**	**2 984**	**3 312**	**3 852**
Percentage of calendar meetings held without interpretation	**58.39**	**73.40**	**71.95**	**74.03**	**76.63**

Official Document System[12]

44. The Official Document System (ODS), which is a re-engineered version of its precursor, the Optical Disk System, is the official repository and distribution outlet of electronic versions of United Nations documents and will operate in strict compliance with the simultaneous distribution rule.

45. Electronic versions of documents become available through ODS at the same time in all languages, immediately following the issuance of the hard-copy version of the document.

Action

46. Phase II of the ODS project will be implemented by January 2002; it will permit full multilingual support functions, including searching capabilities in all the official languages.

47. An Internet-based *Journal* for Headquarters is to be developed, providing hyperlinks to and download options for United Nations documents cited in the *Journal*; this project is to be implemented early in 2002.

IV. Issues relating to public information

48. In accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 50/11, the Department of Public Information has continued during the biennium 2000-2001 to promote global awareness and better public understanding of the objectives and activities of the United Nations by producing and disseminating a broad range of information materials in all media in both the working and, to the extent possible, official languages of the Organization. It has also, inter alia, through the United Nations Information Centres, made information material available in numerous non-official languages. Increasingly, the print and audio-visual outputs of the Department are made available on the United Nations web site as well as in the traditional formats.

Web site

49. At present, the United Nations web site registers an average of 6 million daily visits, or so-called "hits", from more than 170 countries and territories. It features multimedia web pages, as well as live webcast coverage of the proceedings of the General Assembly and public meetings of the Security Council. Statements made during the general debate of the General Assembly and at major United Nations conferences are scanned and posted to the web site within minutes of their delivery.

50. Numerous General Assembly documents are available through the web site, as are major United Nations databases. For materials posted in English, hyperlinks to other available language versions are provided. Through the Official Document System, which is accessible through the Internet, official documents are available in all the official languages of issuance.

51. The United Nations web site also contains a wide variety of public information materials. These include hyperlinks to the sites maintained, inter alia, by 40 United Nations Information Centres/Services worldwide in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish and 19 other languages (Armenian, Bangla, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Malagasy, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu).

52. The Procurement Division of the Department of Management has included on its web site, in all the official languages, the brochure *Doing business with the United Nations*, which is widely used by vendors around the world as a working tool. The pointing of the cursor to the title of the brochure also activates a voice announcement in the chosen language. Moreover, the multilingual composition of the staff of that Division allows web enquiries to be replied to in all official languages.

53. While the Secretary-General is committed to multilingualism on the United Nations web site and has spared no effort in this respect, resource limitations have proved to be an impediment, which is compounded by the decentralized nature of the web site. Linguistic parity in terms of content, including databases, and of search and retrieval engines, would require adequate resources for the maintenance and enhancement of the site in all the official languages.

54. In this regard, the Department of Public Information was fortunate to receive the assistance of the Government of Spain and the International Organization of la Francophonie, which have each provided the services of a Junior Professional Officer

to assist in the work of the Spanish and French web sites, respectively. In addition, an agreement has been reached with two universities in Spain to provide translations of information materials, at no cost to the Organization, for posting on the United Nations web site. Similar assistance from other Member States or their national institutions could contribute to further development of sites in other official languages.

55. The question of the dissemination through the web site of all United Nations documents and information materials, with a view to achieving parity among the six official languages, is currently under review by the General Assembly.

Action

56. The Secretary-General will submit to the Committee on Information a revised proposal for achieving progress towards parity among the official languages on the United Nations web site, together with the associated resource requirements, for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, in 2002.

Publications and other information material

57. United Nations press releases, which include coverage of meetings of intergovernmental bodies, United Nations events, speeches and statements of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and other senior officials, as well as compendia of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, are issued daily in New York and Geneva in English and French, and occasionally in Spanish. They are made available on the United Nations web site. The issuance and posting on the web site of press releases in all the official languages would require additional budgetary appropriations.

58. For its target audiences, which include the media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, government agencies and the private sector, the Department of Public Information researches, writes, publishes and distributes promotional and background print materials on the priority thematic issues of concern to the United Nations, and on special events. Depending on the availability of resources, these materials are produced in English, French and as many additional official languages as is feasible. The web site for the *UN Works* programme, a key tool in promoting the global strategy of the Organization and increasing support for its global mandates, will be available in all the official languages in 2002.

59. With the assistance of the worldwide network of United Nations Information Centres, information materials, including fact sheets, feature articles, background papers, press releases, posters, brochures and booklets, are often translated and adapted for use by local audiences in the country or countries falling under the purview of a particular Centre. During the reporting period, 57 United Nations Information Centres undertook translation of information materials into 63 languages. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Public Information promotes multilingualism in its daily work, and has recently upgraded its web site to post material in all six official languages.

60. The Department of Public Information is also striving to produce its recurrent publications in several official languages. The periodical *Africa Recovery* is issued in English and French, and its web pages are also available in both languages. *Development Business* is published in English, but contains procurement notices in French, Spanish and Portuguese, as appropriate. The same practice is followed on the *Development Business* web pages. Other publications issued regularly in several languages include *Basic Facts about the United Nations* and *Image & Reality* (English, French and Spanish) and *UN in Brief* (all six languages). These titles have also been issued in other languages, official and non-official, with the cooperation of United Nations Information Centres and outside publishers.

61. The *UN Chronicle* and its web pages are currently available in English and French. The Department is working to resume publication of its quarterly editions in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish in 2002. These had been suspended in 1995 as a result of the financial crisis of the Organization. In pursuing this effort, the *UN Chronicle* seeks to harmonize its role as a disseminator of information, opinion and debate on issues related to the United Nations with its subscription-oriented efforts as a sales publication. It encourages the reprint, and further dissemination, of its content in media across the world and in all languages for non-commercial purposes.

62. Through its Sales and Marketing Section, the Department of Public Information has been expanding its activities to promote the production and marketing of United Nations publications in all the official languages. Catalogues of new publications are regularly issued in English, French and Spanish. For the first time, catalogues have also been published in Arabic and Russian, in cooperation with regional sales agents. Multilingual promotions have also been expanded on the Internet.

63. The Department of Public Information has also sought to cooperate with international publishers to produce language versions of major publications. This approach has made possible the translation of numerous titles into Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish as well as other languages such as German, Japanese and Serbian. Finally, to encourage language training for both Secretariat and permanent mission staff, the United Nations Bookshop has for many years provided language study resources. It currently works with the Language Coordinators to facilitate the acquisition of their textbooks.

United Nations Radio

64. The launch of the United Nations Radio live broadcast pilot project in August 2000 has considerably expanded multilingualism in radio programming. The live programmes are broadcast daily in the six official languages of the Organization, targeting audiences in all regions of the world.

65. In addition to the six official languages, United Nations Radio continues to produce news and feature programmes in nine non-official languages, namely, Bangla, Dutch, French Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Turkish and Urdu.

66. Shortly after broadcast in the six official languages and Portuguese, news programmes are digitized in Real Media and MP3 formats and made available for Internet streaming, downloading and distribution to partner stations. A number of weekly feature programmes in Chinese, English, French and Russian are also encoded and distributed regularly via the Internet.

United Nations Television

67. The productions of United Nations Television, including both weekly features and documentaries, are also adapted in the official languages for worldwide dissemination. Clips of the *UN in Action* series and promotional highlights of the documentaries are regularly posted on the United Nations web site. As the web infrastructure develops, every effort will be made to provide more high-quality photographs and audio and video clips in various official languages. Navigation and display features will be continually enhanced to keep pace with this rapidly evolving technology.

Guided tours

68. Visitors to United Nations Headquarters are offered a variety of services, including guided tours and briefing programmes in all the official languages as well as 14 other languages. Tours conducted in languages other than English constitute 22 per cent of the total number of tours offered. Information about the guided tour is available on the United Nations web site in all the official languages and, in abbreviated form, in German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Swedish. Recorded information on guided tours is available in nine different languages. In addition, briefing programmes are available upon request in both official and other languages.

Dag Hammarskjöld Library

69. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library is placing increasing emphasis on multilingualism in its products and services, within available resources. It continues to maintain the archival collection of United Nations documents and publications in all languages and formats of issuance. Also acquired, more selectively, in one or both working languages, are documents and publications of specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

70. During the current biennium, efforts were made to increase acquisition of non-United Nations materials in languages other than English, particularly French. With respect to online databases, access is now provided to content in 22 languages, with emphasis on the six official languages. Furthermore, the Library provides dedicated Internet workstations for patron

use, equipped with utility programmes for browsing various scripts, including Arabic and Chinese.

71. The Library is making particular efforts to produce its new web offerings in at least three languages (English, French and Spanish) as well as in other official languages as feasible. As time and resources permit, older pages are translated, with current emphasis on the heavily textual *United Nations Documentation: Research Guide* (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide). The Guide is now posted in Arabic, English, French and Russian, with Chinese and Spanish versions due by January 2002. Its expanded availability will assist researchers worldwide in working independently with United Nations documents.

72. The Library has also extended its digitization programme for United Nations documents to official languages other than English. To date, documents of the General Assembly in Arabic, French and Spanish, from the forty-sixth session onwards, have been scanned and transmitted to the Official Document System. Furthermore, the *UNBIS Thesaurus* file has been completed in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, which will permit searching of ODS by subject descriptors in these languages, as well as in English, French and Spanish.

73. As part of its ongoing outreach to civil society and Member States, the Library has continued to conduct regional training seminars for depository librarians. Four workshops were held, in Moscow, Islamabad, Mexico City and Rabat, in the course of the biennium 2000-2001, financed under the Library's worldwide programme for developing countries and countries in transition, and conducted in Russian, English, Spanish and French, respectively.

74. The Library also provides extensive training at Headquarters, covering the management, organization and use of United Nations documentation as well as retrieval of both United Nations and non-United Nations electronic information resources. Whenever there is sufficient demand, individual courses are organized in the relevant languages. For example, visiting depository librarians have received training in Spanish and Japanese, while sessions have been organized in Arabic for the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In addition, ad hoc briefings have been provided in Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish and German.

Action

75. The Department of Public Information will continue to provide its products and services in as many official languages, and non-official languages, as is feasible within the resources allocated to it.

Security and Safety Service

76. The Security and Safety Service of the Secretariat continues its effort to increase the language capacity of its staff. Although security officers are locally recruited in accordance with United Nations regulations, the Security and Safety Service actively seeks qualified candidates who will bring linguistic and cultural diversity to the Service. During recruitment processes, language skills are recruitment criteria.

77. In 2001, security officers from Hungary, Romania and Sri Lanka were recruited. At present, the Safety and Security Service at Headquarters has approximately 200 officers of whom the following numbers are proficient in official languages other than English: Arabic (15), Chinese (1), French (11), Spanish (26), Russian (2). Some officers are also proficient in Creole, German, Hindi, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Serbian and Swedish.

V. Conclusion

78. The furtherance of multilingualism at the United Nations poses many challenges. At present, three priority areas may be identified. The first challenge concerns the need to ensure a more balanced use of working languages within the Secretariat. The second pertains to the use of official languages in documents, and by Member States in their intergovernmental meetings. The third relates to the availability and dissemination of public information material, in particular through the United Nations web site, in all the official languages, or as appropriate.

79. Effective actions to promote multilingualism would require policy guidance from the General Assembly. The promotion of multilingualism would also require concerted efforts by Member States and the Secretariat, and adequate resources, in particular with respect to public information activities.

Notes

[1] Rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

[2] Rule 41 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

[3] Rule 32 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[4] Rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

[5] Article 39 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

[6] Resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946.

[7] English, French, Portuguese and Spanish are the official languages of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

[8] Applicable to grade levels P-1 to P-5.

[9] Applicable to grade levels D-1 to D-2.

[10] Occasionally, especially during periods of peak activity, the quantity of manuscripts submitted is beyond the processing capacity of the Secretariat for the specific time frame requested. In these cases, a choice must be made between timely, albeit partial, availability and non-issuance or total non-availability. On some occasions, the practical reality has prevailed and a document is issued with the annexes remaining in the languages of submission. The Secretariat is doing everything possible to avoid such occurrences in the future.

[11] Calendar meetings are meetings of intergovernmental or expert United Nations bodies, regardless of the nature of the meetings (formal, informal consultations, etc.). Non-calendar meetings are all other meetings, including mainly meetings of regional groups, other groups of Member States or intergovernmental organizations, and meetings organized by the Secretariat on its own initiative. Non-calendar meetings are provided with conference services on an as-available basis.

[12] See A/56/120/Rev.1.

United Nations A/56/657–S/2001/1114

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 119 (a), (b) and (d) and 166

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued by an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar on 23 November 2001, in which it expressed its deep concern about the fate of the Arab and other nationalities in Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 199 (a), (b) and (d) and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-66382 (E) 281101

Annex to the letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Qatar expresses concern for the fate of Arabs and persons of other nationalities in Afghanistan

The State of Qatar has expressed its deep concern at the possibility that many Arabs and persons of other nationalities in Afghanistan, and especially in the city of Kunduz, may have been massacred on the basis of their race or nationality, which would be incompatible with human values and with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights.

The official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that, in telephone calls to Mr. Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs, had transmitted Qatar's concern and anxiety concerning the whereabouts and safety of these persons, who must be accorded the rights guaranteed to them under the international conventions on prisoners of war.

The official spokesman appealed to the fraternal parties in Afghanistan to exercise self-restraint, to avoid bloodshed and to form a national government representing all groups and classes of the Afghan people.

United Nations A/56/658–S/2001/1115

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2001

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 119 (a), (b) and (d) and 166

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a telephone interview of Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, conducted by Al-Jazeera channel on 24 November 2001, concerning his call to the Northern Alliance troops to treat the captives from Taliban fighter and other groups as prisoners of war (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 119 (a), (b) and (d) and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-66391 (E) 291101 291101

Annex to the letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Statements of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar

Doha, 24 November 2001

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has expressed the deep concern of the State of Qatar for the fate of the thousands of Afghan, Arab and other combatants encircled in Kunduz, some of them having surrendered to Northern Alliance forces while the whereabouts of others remains unknown. The Minister voiced his fears at the manner in which the Northern Alliance forces were currently dealing with the critical situation in the city and region of Kunduz in north-eastern Afghanistan.

In a telephone interview with Al-Jazeera satellite television station, the Minister urged the Northern Alliance forces to treat all captured Taliban and other categories of combatants as prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the relevant norms of international law, cautioning that it would be a serious matter for the Alliance forces to adopt a policy of differentiation.

He indicated that His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, beloved Amir of Qatar, had instructed him to monitor the prisoner issue and to communicate for that purpose with Mr. Colin L. Powell, United States Secretary of State, in order to convey Qatar's concern at the reported massacres of Arabs presently in Afghanistan, despite the fact that we know that not all of the captured combatants in Afghanistan are Arabs.

He asked for caution in dealing with the issue of these captured combatants. He said: "The United States Secretary of State shared my concern ... and he told me that the United States of America had communicated with all those concerned in the Afghan Northern Alliance and had requested them not to endanger the lives of the prisoners and not to massacre them or commit massacres in any other place in Afghanistan. ... We have asked a number of parties active in the international arena to bring pressure to bear in order to induce all the Afghan groups to avoid anything that might further complicate the situation." He confirmed that Qatar had obtained assurances from the United States in this regard and that the United States was taking our concern seriously.

In reply to a question concerning Qatar's communications with the League of Arab States on the same subject, the Minister stated that Qatar had spoken of the matter with the Secretary-General of the League, had informed him of the statement issued by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had put him in the picture with respect to its international contacts on the issue. He indicated that the Secretary-General of the League shared Qatar's concern for the safety of all prisoners in Afghanistan and its anxiety, based on the Islamic creed and international humanitarian and moral principles, that they should not be involved in any massacres.

He reaffirmed Qatar's neutrality on Afghan internal affairs and urged the Afghan parties to resolve their various issues in accordance with the norms of international law.

United Nations A/56/659

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 November 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 123
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with established practice, the proposed programme budget is recosted prior to its adoption by the General Assembly. A preliminary recosting is reflected in the budget proposals of the Secretary-General (A/56/6 (Introduction, sects. 1-33 and Income, sects. 1-3) and Corr.1).

The present report provides the latest data on actual inflation experience, the outcome of salary surveys, the movement of post adjustment indices in 2001, salary expenditure experience and the effect of the evolution of operational rates of exchange in 2001 on the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003.

After recosting, the resources proposed under the expenditure sections would amount to $2,681.0 million. The recosted estimates of income for 2002-2003 amount to $408.3 million.

01-66411 (E) 281101

1. To provide a comparable basis on which to analyse increases and decreases from one biennium to another, the proposed programme budget is presented at the same price levels and rates of exchange as the current programme budget. At the same time, the proposed programme budget contains provisions for anticipated increases due to inflation and adjustments due to changes in the rates of exchange. These are isolated and presented separately in the column entitled "recosting" in the proposed programme budget. The programme budget is subsequently recosted three times in the biennial cycle, as follows:

(a) The first recosting is contained in the present report, which is submitted to the General Assembly for the purpose of updating the resource requirements in the proposed programme budget before an initial appropriation is approved;

(b) The second will be reflected in the revised estimates included in the first performance report on the programme budget, submitted by the Secretary-General at the end of the first year of the biennium in connection with approval of a revised appropriation;

(c) The third will be included in the second performance report, submitted at the end of the second year of the biennium, in connection with approval of the final appropriation.

2. As foreseen in the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Introduction), para. 14), the proposed programme budget is recosted to take into account changes in operational rates of exchange, actual inflation experience, the outcome of salary surveys, if any, and the movement of post adjustment indices. The recosting in this case is based on the initial budget proposals of the Secretary-General, amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[1] using the data available in November 2001. Other elements, including revised cost estimates and statements of programme budget implications, may later be the subject of a separate recosting exercise using the same parameters as are applied in the present report.

3. Table 1 provides a summary of the results of the recosting based on the parameters described in the following paragraphs. It may be subject to further revision, as necessary, as a result of specific decisions of the Fifth Committee on programme budget implications and revised estimates.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7).

Table 1
Summary of recosting of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003
(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Recosting				
Proposed programme budget (1)	*Adjustments recommended by Advisory Committee (see para. 10 below) (2)*	*Proposed programme budget plus Advisory Committee adjustments (3) = (1 + 2)*	*Exchange rate (4)*	*Inflation (5)*	*Adjustment of salary standards (6)*	*Total (7) = (4 + 5 + 6)*	*Estimated appropriation (8) = (3 + 7)*
2 648 715.6	(2 963.6)	2 645 752.0	8 420.6	26 337.0	513.3	35 270.9	2 681 022.9

4. The proposed revised recosting factors to be applied for the first recosting in the biennial cycle, compared with the assumptions applied in the preliminary recosting included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, are set out in the following schedules:

Schedule I. Rates of exchange and annual rates of inflation by main duty station included in the proposed programme budget and in the present report;

Schedule II. Post adjustment multipliers by main duty station;

Schedule III. Cost-of-living adjustments by main duty stations (General Service);

Schedule IV. Effect of recosting by budget section and main determining factor.

5. In the present recosting, the latest United Nations operational rates of exchange (those in effect as at November 2001) have been used as the basis for recosting for all but four duty stations, namely, Vienna, The Hague, Port of Spain and Geneva. For those locations, using the average actual rates from January to November 2001 and using the November rate for December yields the lowest estimates. Accordingly, the averaging method has been used for those four duty stations in the current recosting. This approach is consistent with the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as indicated in paragraph 5 of its seventh report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997,[2] that the Administration should use such operational rates of exchange in recosting exercises as would allow for the lowest estimates.

6. The estimated additional requirement of $8.4 million in respect of exchange rate fluctuations reflects the net impact of additional requirements ($26.9 million) arising at Geneva, Vienna, The Hague, Mexico City and Port of Spain, being partially offset by reduced requirements ($18.5 million) at the other duty stations.

7. With respect to inflation, consideration is given, as necessary, to a series of factors, including analysis of the movement of the consumer price index at the different duty stations for goods and services and probable increases in the salaries of General Service staff as a result of the movement of consumer price indices and the outcome of comprehensive salary surveys. In the case of the salaries of

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/51/7/Add.1-9), document A/51/7/Add.6.

Professional staff, while base salaries are not affected by exchange rates, as they are denominated in United States dollars, the post adjustment component moves in response to changes in both cost of living and exchange rates. Accordingly, the increases resulting from inflation comprise three elements, namely, post adjustment increases for Professional staff, salary adjustments for General Service staff and adjustments to non-post estimates. With regard to Professional staff costs, necessary adjustments are triggered by the higher post adjustment multipliers applicable to some main duty stations approved by the International Civil Service Commission in 2001 (notably Geneva and Vienna) and the worldwide consolidation of multiplier points annually in March. As for General Service salary and non-post requirements, increases are attributable to higher cost-of-living adjustments and higher rates of inflation respectively than those originally estimated in several duty stations in 2001. It should be noted in this regard that realized levels of inflation in 2001 directly affect price and salary levels for the forthcoming biennium, so higher than anticipated 2001 increases add to the requirements for 2002-2003.

8. The estimated additional requirement of $26.3 million for inflation reflects requirements arising in respect of Professional salaries ($26.4 million) and staff assessment ($6.0 million), which are partially offset by reduced requirements in respect of General Service salaries ($3.7 million) and non-post objects of expenditure ($2.4 million). The slightly higher post adjustment multipliers at large duty stations (New York, Geneva, Vienna and The Hague) explain in large part the additional requirements for Professional salaries. The staff assessment increase is explained largely by the requirements arising from the consolidation of post adjustment planned for March 2002, which will increase the portion of Professional salaries subject to staff assessment.

9. The standard salary costs are also adjusted to incorporate the latest trends following an analysis of monthly payroll data by grade for each duty station. These adjustments result mainly in the redistribution of resources among duty stations to reflect the most recent levels of payroll expenses, including staff assessment, at different offices. The net effect of the adjustment of salary standards amounts to $513,300 on the basis of the initial proposed provision for posts of $1.8 billion.

10. The present recosting takes into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee that affect the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Those recommendations, amounting to $2,963,600, are listed in the annex, which includes reference to the specific paragraph of the report of the Committee where the recommendation is made. While the General Assembly has yet to take action on the recommendations, the assumption has been made that it would be best to reflect them at this stage to the extent that they can be specifically costed. This is consistent with past practice and allows Member States to have a more comprehensive picture of the overall level of estimates in determining the appropriation for 2002-2003.

11. Schedule IV contains a detailed listing, by budget section and main determining factor, of the revised estimates for the biennium 2002-2003 resulting from the recosting of the resource requirements of the expenditure sections in the proposed programme budget, including the adjustments related to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, using the rates of exchange and inflation recommended in the present report.

12. The foregoing budget factors are also proposed to be applied to the income sections. The revised estimates for the income sections are summarized in table 2.

Table 2
Revised estimates for income sections 1 to 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Income section		*Proposed programme budget*	*Revised estimates*	*Increase (decrease)*
IS1.	Income from staff assessment	348 364.2	356 581.7	8 217.5
IS2.	General income	47 164.0	47 283.2	119.2
IS3.	Services to the public	4 637.9	4 474.4	(163.5)
Total		**400 166.1**	**408.339.3**	**8 173.2**

Schedule I

Rates of exchange relative to the United States dollar and annual rates of inflation by duty station included in the proposed programme budget and in the present report

Duty station (currency)	Rates of exchange 2002-2003		Average annual rates of inflation (percentage)				
			Programme budget		Present report		
	Proposed programme budget[a]	Present report[b]	2001[c]	2002-2003[d]	2001[a]	2002[d]	2003[d]
Vienna (euro)	1.16	1.11	1.5	1.5	2.5	1.6	1.6
Santiago (Chilean peso)	570.00	700.00	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.8
Addis Ababa (Ethiopian birr)	8.29	8.54	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (rupee)	46.52	47.75	5.0	5.0	4.6	8.4	7.9
Beirut (Lebanese pound)	1 501.00	1 501.00	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (new shekel)	4.07	4.28	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.3	2.0
Gaza (new shekel)	4.07	4.28	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.3	2.0
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (shekel)	4.07	4.28	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.3	2.0
Nairobi (Kenyan shilling)	78.00	79.00	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Mexico City (Mexican peso)	9.35	9.29	9.1	9.1	6.5	5.7	4.6
The Hague (euro)	1.16	1.11	2.7	2.7	4.7	2.2	2.2
Bangkok (baht)	43.70	44.62	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.7	1.8
Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago dollar)	6.20	6.12	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
New York (United States dollar)	-	-	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.1	2.1
Geneva (Swiss franc)	1.76	1.68	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1
United Nations information centres[f]	-	-	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.1	2.1

[a] Based on December 2000 rate of exchange.

[b] Based on November 2001 rate of exchange; for Vienna, The Hague, Port of Spain and Geneva, average actual rates used through November 2001, with November rate used for December.

[c] Revised 2000-2001 appropriations.

[d] Projected.

[e] Rates used in the second performance report for the biennium 2000-2001.

[f] Reflects the combined effect of inflation and exchange rate changes.

Schedule II

Post adjustment multipliers by main duty station

	Programme budget			*Present report*	
Duty station	*2001[a]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2002*	*2003*
Vienna	102.3	102.8	104.1	115.2	116.5
Santiago	105.6	106.5	109.2	100.0	100.0
Addis Ababa	104.3	103.4	103.4	104.8	106.5
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	111.5	111.2	114.5	110.1	114.7
Beirut	134.2	133.1	133.1	133.1	133.1
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	111.6	110.6	110.8	109.5	110.4
Gaza	111.6	110.6	110.8	109.5	110.4
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	111.6	110.6	110.8	109.5	110.4
Nairobi	107.9	107.5	107.5	107.8	107.8
Mexico City	113.0	117.7	124.0	117.0	120.3
The Hague	100.3	101.2	103.2	104.4	105.8
Bangkok	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Port of Spain	107.5	109.3	111.8	110.9	113.5
New York	142.9	144.8	148.1	147.0	150.4
Geneva	118.1	117.2	118.0	128.3	130.7
United Nations information centres	118.3	117.3	117.3	115.1	115.4

[a] Revised 2000-2001 appropriations.

Schedule III

Annual cost-of-living adjustments by main duty station (General Service)

	Programme budget		*Present report*		
Duty station	*2001*[a]	*2002-2003*[b]	*2001*[c]	*2002*[b]	*2003*[b]
Vienna	1.5	1.5	2.49	1.6	1.6
Santiago	3.9	3.9	3.35	3.8	3.8
Addis Ababa	2.6	2.6	10.75	2.6	2.6
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	5.0	5.0	5.34	8.4	7.9
Beirut	1.5	1.5	2.96	1.5	1.5
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	1.0	1.0	5.00	2.3	2.0
Gaza	1.0	1.0	5.00	2.3	2.0
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	1.0	1.0	5.00	2.3	2.0
Nairobi	5.8	5.8	3.19	5.8	5.8
Mexico City	9.1	9.1	4.31	5.7	4.6
The Hague	2.7	2.7	4.50	2.2	2.2
Bangkok	2.2	2.2	0.00	2.7	1.8
Port of Spain	3.1	3.1	4.01	3.1	3.1
New York	2.7	2.7	2.02	2.1	2.1
Geneva	1.5	1.5	1.04	1.1	1.1
United Nations information centres	2.7	2.7	2.02	2.1	2.1

[a] Revised 2000-2001 appropriations.

[b] Projected.

[c] Actual figures, except Santiago and UNMOGIP, which are projected.

Schedule IV

Effects of recosting by budget section and main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Expenditure section	*Proposed programme budget (1)*	*Adjustments recommended by Advisory Committee (2)*	*Proposed programme budget plus Advisory Committee adjustments (3) = (1+2)*	*Recosting*				*Estimated appropriation (8) = (3+7)*
				Exchange rate (4)	*Inflation (5)*	*Adjustment of salary standards (6)*	*Total (7) = (4+5+6)*	
1. Overall policy-making direction and coordination	50 075.2	(313.3)	49 761.9	189.7	191.8	120.6	502.1	50 264.0
2. General Assembly affairs and conference services	445 054.9	0.0	445 054.9	7 360.7	4 395.4	1 445.8	13 201.9	458 256.8
3. Political affairs	156 322.8	0.0	156 322.8	(429.6)	255.5	208.5	34.4	156 357.2
4. Disarmament	15 336.0	(593.4)	14 742.6	100.3	85.5	1.3	187.1	14 929.7
5. Peacekeeping operations	76 276.2	0.0	76 276.2	(1 933.1)	2 510.5	(562.4)	15.0	76 291.2
6. Peaceful uses of outer space	3 767.2	0.0	3 767.2	122.4	224.4	27.7	374.5	4 141.7
7. International Court of Justice	23 162.6	637.9	23 800.5	549.4	69.6	38.9	657.9	24 458.4
8. Legal affairs	36 067.7	0.0	36 067.7	106.0	315.4	100.1	521.5	36 589.2
9. Economic and social affairs	120 963.5	(387.3)	120 576.2	0.0	652.4	186.8	839.2	121 415.4
10. Africa: New Agenda for Development	6 892.0	0.0	6 892.0	(27.5)	67.4	(28.3)	11.6	6 903.6
11. Trade and development								
A. Trade and development	82 763.9	(58.8)	82 705.1	3 644.7	2 316.6	625.0	6 586.3	89 291.4
B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO[a]	16 916.1	0.0	16 916.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16 916.1
12. Environment	7 840.6	0.0	7 840.6	(12.2)	118.3	(63.1)	43.0	7 883.6
13. Human settlements	12 299.9	0.0	12 299.9	(129.4)	141.6	(251.9)	(239.7)	12 060.2
14. Crime prevention and criminal justice	5 431.1	(117.0)	5 314.1	175.8	332.0	70.5	578.3	5 892.4
15. International drug control	14 710.0	(58.5)	14 651.5	451.3	749.7	29.0	1 230.0	15 881.5
16. Economic and social development in Africa	84 474.1	0.0	84 474.1	(2 021.3)	2 837.1	(2 823.5)	(2 007.7)	82 466.4

Expenditure section	Proposed programme budget (1)	Adjustments recommended by Advisory Committee (2)	Proposed programme budget plus Advisory Committee adjustments (3) = (1 + 2)	Recosting				
				Exchange rate (4)	Inflation (5)	Adjustment of salary standards (6)	Total (7) = (4 + 5 + 6)	Estimated appropriation (8) = (3 + 7)
17. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	56 029.1	0.0	56 029.1	(1 056.7)	248.2	(814.5)	(1 623.0)	54 406.1
18. Economic development in Europe	38 351.3	0.0	38 351.3	1 720.9	1 175.0	150.1	3 046.0	41 397.3
19. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	81 115.8	0.0	81 115.8	(9 477.8)	1 807.2	(1 635.8)	(9 306.4)	71 809.4
20. Economic and social development in Western Asia	50 669.5	0.0	50 669.5	0.0	157.4	(250.8)	(93.4)	50 576.1
21. Regular programme of technical cooperation	42 698.1	0.0	42 698.1	175.7	(124.2)	0.0	51.5	42 749.6
22. Human rights	42 060.3	(665.7)	41 394.6	1 365.1	873.3	241.1	2 479.5	43 874.1
23. Protection of and assistance to refugees	41 237.8	0.0	41 237.8	1 904.0	(242.6)	2.7	1 664.1	42 901.9
24. Palestine refugees	24 790.5	0.0	24 790.5	(1 154.1)	1 037.1	(137.3)	(254.3)	24 536.2
25. Humanitarian assistance	20 319.0	(438.0)	19 881.0	197.1	182.9	34.7	414.7	20 295.7
26. Public information	146 982.9	(40.5)	146 942.4	264.6	665.4	(304.0)	626.0	147 568.4
27. Management and central support services	453 777.7	(348.1)	453 429.6	4 623.1	(615.9)	2 020.3	6 027.5	459 457.1
A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	12 650.7	(23.5)	12 627.2	-	49.3	57.0	106.3	12 733.5
B. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	24 026.6	(104.6)	23 922.0	-	69.2	94.9	164.1	24 086.1
C. Office of Human Resources Management	51 730.1	(161.5)	51 568.6	-	12.5	130.2	142.7	51 711.3
D. Office of Central Support Services	243 506.3	-	243 506.3	29.0	(1 266.6)	1 791.1	553.5	244 059.8
E. Administration, Geneva	85 191.6	-	85 191.6	3 890.7	(124.1)	160.0	3 926.6	89 118.2
F. Administration, Vienna	23 873.1	(58.5)	23 814.6	848.6	544.7	101.9	1 495.2	25 309.8
G. Administration, Nairobi	12 799.3	-	12 799.3	(145.2)	99.1	(314.8)	(360.9)	12 438.4

Expenditure section	Proposed programme budget (1)	Adjustments recommended by Advisory Committee (2)	Proposed programme budget plus Advisory Committee adjustments (3) = (1 + 2)	Recosting				Estimated appropriation (8) = (3 + 7)
				Exchange rate (4)	Inflation (5)	Adjustment of salary standards (6)	Total (7) = (4 + 5 + 6)	
28. Internal oversight	20 738.1	(84.7)	20 653.4	67.3	217.1	(11.3)	273.1	20 926.5
29. Jointly financed administrative activities	8 212.8	0.0	8 212.8	106.6	203.7	0.0	310.3	8 523.1
30. Special expenses	60 982.8	0.0	60 982.8	484.7	(296.8)	(8.0)	179.9	61 162.7
31. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	45 736.6	0.0	45 736.6	450.6	(167.5)	0.0	283.1	46 019.7
32. Staff assessment	343 594.5	(496.2)	343 098.3	602.3	5 953.5	2 101.1	8 656.9	351 755.2
33. Development Account	13 065.0	0.0	13 065.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13 065.0
Total	**2 648 715.6**	**(2 963.6)**	**2 645 752.0**	**8 420.6**	**26 337.0**	**513.3**	**35 270.9**	**2 681 022.9**

[a] The applicable recosting of section 11B will be incorporated in the proposed programme budget for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to be issued separately.

Annex

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[a]

Budget section	*Paragraph reference*	*Description*
1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	I.17	Recommendation against the reclassification of a D-1 to D-2 (in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General).
	I.20	Recommendation against the reclassification of a P-5 to D-2 (in the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva).
	I.23	Recommendation against the proposed new Assistant Secretary-General post and the request for a new General Service (Principal level) post (in the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Vienna).
	I.24	Recommendation against the reclassification of a P-5 to D-1 (in the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi).
4. Disarmament	II.23	Not convinced by the arguments presented as to the need for establishing the new P-5, P-4 and General Service (Other level) posts (under executive direction and management).
	II.24	Not convinced of the need to establish a new P-4 post (subprogramme 3) and a new General Service (Other level) post (programme support).
7. International Court of Justice	III.15	Recommendation that general temporary assistance equivalent to five posts at the P-2 level be approved to increase the capacity of legal services.
9. Economic and social affairs	IV.8	Recommendation against acceptance of two new P-2 posts and a proposed General Service (Other level) post.
	IV.10	Recommendation for establishment of a D-1 post to carry out gender-mainstreaming functions.

Budget section	*Paragraph reference*	*Description*
	IV.13	Recommendation that the resources requested under other staff costs and consultants be reduced by $300,000.
11A. Trade and development	IV.47	Recommendation against the reclassification of a D-1 to D-2 (programme support) and of the General Service post to the Principal level (executive direction and management).
14. Crime prevention and criminal justice	IV.73	Recommendation against two new General Service (Other level) posts.
15. International drug control	IV.77	Not convinced of the need for an additional General Service (Other level) post (subprogramme 2).
22. Human rights	VI.13	Recommendation against the establishment of an additional P-3 post in Geneva and a new General Service (Other level) post in New York.
	VI.14	Recommendation against the establishment of six new General Service posts.
	VI.15	Reclassification of a P-5 to D-1 (New York) not recommended.
	VI.16	Not convinced of the rationale for the reclassification of the P-5 to D-1 (programme support).
25. Humanitarian assistance	VI.49	Not convinced that the establishment of two new regular budget P-4 posts is justified (subprogramme 2).
	VI.50	Recommendation against the establishment of a new P-4 post (subprogramme 4).
	VI.51	Recommendation against the reclassification of a D-2 to the Assistant Secretary-General level (executive direction and management) and of a P-5 to D-1 (programme support).
26. Public information	VII.5	Recommendation against the reclassification of a P-4 to P-5 (subprogramme 2).
27A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	VIII.6	No convincing justification for the reclassification of a P-5 to D-1 (executive direction and management).

Budget section	*Paragraph reference*	*Description*
27B. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	VIII.16	Recommendation against the establishment of a new General Service post (financial accounting and reporting).
27C. Office of Human Resources Management	VIII.33	Recommendation against the establishment of the P-4 post and the reclassification of a P-5 to D-1 (subprogramme 2).
27F. Administration, Vienna	VIII.108	Does not agree with the proposed establishment of one General Service post (subprogramme 2).
28. Internal oversight	IX.7	Not convinced by the arguments given to reclassify the P-4 post of auditor to P-5, and the two D-1 posts of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division and the Investigations Division to D-2.

[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7).